

Appl. No. 10/015,191

Filed: 11/21/2001

Atty Dkt No.: HM-69621

Thanh K. Truong, Patent Examiner

Art Unit 3721

Title: MULTI-PURPOSE OFFICE TOOL

**Rule 111 Amendment "A" in Response to
12/15/04 Office Action**

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended): A multi-purpose tool comprising:
a housing having a periphery that includes a bottom wall and a first side wall;
a recess extending into said bottom wall and said first sidewall;
a stapler ~~detachably~~ operatively mounted to said ~~housing~~ recess; and,
said stapler having a base that is about coplanar with said bottom wall and an
actuating member; and, that is releasably secured to said recess.
~~a recess in said housing that is engageable with said actuating member when said~~
~~stapler is mounted to said housing.~~
2. (Currently amended): The tool of claim 1 wherein said ~~housing has a first side wall and~~
~~a bottom wall and further wherein said~~ recess is defined by an inclined wall that extends from
said first side wall into a curved portion, said curved portion merging into an end wall that
terminates at said bottom wall.
3. (Original): The tool of claim 2 wherein said recess is formed with at least two opposing
undercut slots that extend from said first side wall along said inclined wall and said curved
portion, said slots terminating at said end wall.

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4. (Currently amended): The tool of claim 3 further comprising at least two opposing flanges extending longitudinally along said actuating member for frictional engagement with a corresponding undercut slot when said stapler is ~~mounted~~ secured to said housing.

5. (Original): The tool of claim 3 wherein said slots have a decreasing width along said inclined wall.

6. (Original): The tool of claim 5 wherein said curved portion defines a transition area and said width diminishes in said transition area.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended): The tool of ~~claim 7~~ claim 1 wherein said ~~actuating member~~ stapler base has an outwardly extending tab and wherein said housing is formed with an indentation on said bottom wall extending rearwardly from said end wall, said tab being engageable with said indentation when said stapler is ~~mounted in~~ secured to said recess.

9. (Currently amended): The tool of claim 1 wherein said housing includes a corner opening and further comprising:

a hole punch; and,

a holding means for selectively fixing said hole punch in said corner opening.

10. (Currently amended): The tool of claim 9 wherein said ~~holding~~ housing has a front wall and a rear wall, ~~wherein said holding means comprises with~~ a first guide rail formed in said

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front wall and a second guide rail formed in said rear wall, and wherein said punch includes a punch casing having opposing grooves that frictionally engage said guide rails when said hole punch is inserted into said corner opening and fixed to said housing.

11. (Original): The tool of claim 1 wherein said housing has an aperture and further comprising:

 a lighting means mounted within said housing and oriented for illumination through said aperture; and,

 an activation means attached to said housing and electrically connected to said lighting means for selective illumination of said lighting means.

Claims 12 - 20 (canceled)

21. (New): A multi-purpose tool comprising a housing having peripheral walls containing a stapler, said stapler having a base that forms at least a portion of a peripheral wall of said housing.

22. (New): The tool of claim 21 wherein said stapler has an actuating member attached to said housing.

23. (New): The tool of claim 22 wherein said stapler has a back end and an open end, with said open end facing outward from a peripheral wall, said actuating member being pivotally attached to said base at said back end.

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24. (New): The tool of claim 23 wherein said housing has a recess and said stapler is fitted into said recess.

25. (New): The tool of claim 24 wherein said peripheral walls include a bottom wall and a side wall, the base of said stapler being about coplanar with said bottom wall.

26. (New): The tool of claim 25 wherein the open end of said stapler is about coextensive with said side wall.

27. (New): A compact multi-purpose tool comprising a housing fitted with a stapler; said housing having peripheral walls and said stapler comprising a base with a pivotally attached actuating member; and,
said base forming a first portion of said peripheral walls.

28. (New): The tool of claim 27 wherein said stapler has an open end that forms a second portion of said peripheral walls.

29. (New): The tool of claim 28 wherein said stapler has an outline and said peripheral walls include a corner with a recess having a shape that corresponds to said outline; and,
said stapler being fitted into said recess.